United States Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
5522 Research Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228
443-498-5500

USGS Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Water Science Center

Seminar Series

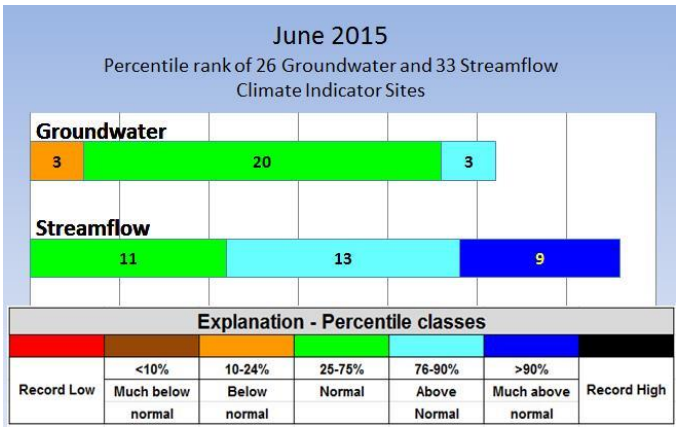
Tuesday, August 11, 2015 11:00 a.m.

Monitoring water resources and response to climate in Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia with the USGS Monthly Water Conditions

Wendy S. McPherson,
Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey

How do streamflow and groundwater levels respond to changes in climate?

Since 2000, Wendy has worked to answer this question with the Monthly Water Conditions, which compares data for current USGS streamflow, groundwater, freshwater flow to the Chesapeake Bay, and precipitation and reservoir levels from other sources, to the historical record and ranks it statistically. The Monthly Water Conditions includes maps, graphs, and a report that summarizes the region's water resources. This information is especially useful during droughts.



The USGS uses carefully designed criteria to select streamgages and wells to provide data that will help define the impact that climate change will have on streamflow and groundwater levels. The USGS has long-term data, with the longest record in Maryland dating back to 1895. Having extensive historical data allows the USGS to compare the current monthly water levels to the historical record, including the exceptionally dry and wet periods.

The presentation will describe the process of compiling the data and information for the monthly water conditions summary and show how it is useful to all audiences.

Wendy started her career with the USGS in Ithaca, New York in 1988. In 1999, she moved to the Baltimore, Maryland area to work at the USGS MD-DE-DC Water Science Center. Wendy was the USGS spokesperson during the 2002 drought and used the Monthly Water Conditions as the resource to respond to multiple TV, radio, and news interviews.
Wendy S. McPherson can be reached at wsmcpher@usgs.gov

This presentation will also be available remotely via Webex:
https://usgs.webex.com/usgs/j.php?MTID=m56954f9835cf2a1eb4657d2ade3e36d6